

**From:** [Nickle, Richard \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#)  
**To:** [Patrick Young/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Cc:** [George Pettigrew/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE  
**Date:** 04/26/2010 02:23 PM

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Per Bob's suggestion. Sorry I missed it.

Rich Nickle  
ATSDR Emergency Response

-----Original Message-----

From: Rilling, Cyndi (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 2:34 PM  
To: Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); 'Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov'; Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)  
Cc: Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO); Rilling, Cyndi (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Reddick, Rufus (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); (eshanley@gatech.edu.); Banaski, James (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Cruz, Miguel (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Holcomb, Daniel (Dan) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Rich, Bill (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Rilling, Cyndi (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Shanley, Edwin (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
Subject: RE: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

Everyone... Mike and I would also like to suggest reaching out to others in our Center and taking some additional actions ahead of any requests that may come in related to this event. Issues may emerge or escalate as the oil slick moves towards land.

Additional anticipated Issues that emerge and generate requests in the near future:

- more frequent complaints/concerns about diesel odor may increase (as reported below)
- questions about what to do when encountering tar balls or oil slicks
- questions about what to do if encountering oil covering wildlife
- questions covering oil contamination and impact on aquatic life
- questions/guidance for the public and for workers who are concerned about oil contamination and exposure to workers in cleanup activities

Jana/Dagny.... could you and your team let us know if we have recently updated information on our website covering oil spills? Do we have any fact sheets we could post on the website that could address some of the issues that may emerge? Would it be possible to create a spotlight on the CDC.gov website pointing visitors to information we have on these issues?

Rich and Jim Holler are the lead ECs for this event, but we want to extend our support if you need it.

Thanks.

Cyndi Rilling, MPH  
Emergency Coordinator/Domestic Preparedness and Response Team Lead NCEH/ATSDR Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (OTPER) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 4770 Buford Highway Mailstop F-09 Chamblee Campus - Bldg. 106, 2nd Floor: 02112.13 Atlanta, Georgia 30341

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-----Original Message-----

From: Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 11:18 AM  
To: Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov; Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)  
Cc: Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Sinks, Tom (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO); Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Rilling, Cyndi (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
Subject: RE: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

Bob and Rich,

I have been talking with Jennifer Hornsby-Myers this morning. In the past, many of the concerns that have been raised about exposures to oil and oil products were by workers who were concerned about potential exposures and possible health effects. I am requesting that whatever we do, we coordinate with NIOSH. Jennifer will be getting back with me about points of contact within NIOSH for this particular event.

We also want to make sure the NCEH office of communications Science is involved. We are reaching out to Dagny Olivares.

I suggest we be careful with the food issues. There are a lot of issues over which CDC has no jurisdiction. We may need to involve other fed agencies at some point.

In spite of everyone's efforts over the years to educate folks about the NCP, there has typically not been a lot of interest in engaging on the part of CDC and HHS. However, because of the high level of visibility and political interest in this event, they are now very interested. So, please be mindful of the information needs of the CDC EOC. Our office, OTPER, can assist in making sure these needs are met through our EC duty officer roster. Call the EOC and ask for the OTPER EC duty officer and that person can help.

And finally, no one has asked yet, but OTPER does not have travel money to support sending folks to the field. We will need to talk with the OD about these issues if there is a need to do this

without a Mission Assignment.

Thanks for all the hard work.

Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov]  
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 10:56 AM  
To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); pay9@epamail.epa.gov; hitchcock.shane@epa.gov; ullock.dean@epa.gov  
Cc: Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Sinks, Tom (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO); Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Deitchman, Scott (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
Subject: Re: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

I concur. I told Dean I would get it to Shane for review, then Shane will get it to Unified Command in LA for distribution to NRT and RRT's 4 and 6. Also, fact sheet on food chain and consumption of sea food a good idea.  
I already notified Dr. Geller with Poison Control Center and he will contact others. Patrick should do same in R-6. Bob

----- Original Message -----

From: "Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)" [ran2@cdc.gov]  
Sent: 04/26/2010 10:40 AM AST  
To: Robert Safay  
Cc: "Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)" <hem0@CDC.GOV>; "Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)" <jsh2@CDC.GOV>; "Sinks, Tom (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <ths2@CDC.GOV>; "Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO)" <xf5@CDC.GOV>; "Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <mia2@CDC.GOV>; "Deitchman, Scott (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <sed2@CDC.GOV>  
Subject: RE: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

Bob, we can come up with a statement on the health effects of petroleum odors and tar balls, but these concerns are only going to be the first issues. I think we should be looking ahead at other factors. Let me suggest some things, maybe you can run these ideas through Dean, and see what y'all think.

First off, whatever is put out should be coordinated through the Joint Information Center that is being operated by the 8th Coast Guard District in New Orleans; that's required under the NCP anyway. Our information on the health implications needs to be added to information on the NOAA projections and the Coast Guard led response operations as well as the information on effects on the sea-life for both commercial and recreation fishermen from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Wildlife and Fisheries Service. I think the open season for shrimp is about to start in Louisiana waters, for instance, and that could become a big issue if there is emulsified oil in the shrimp grounds. Anyway, the health implications of exposure to oil should be one piece of the much larger picture.

Second, with the understanding that our technical information is going into this larger package, I think DTEM can pull together the technical aspects of the health picture based on the NOAA projections we are getting off their ResponseLink Hotlines. We have the ATSDR Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons ToxFAQ and Public Health Statements with some other pieces off the Fuel Oil ToxFAQ and PHS and some of the site specific fact sheets from Coffeyville and Murphy oil as well as other information. We can also look at fact sheets from various states. Specific fact sheet targeted at this incident will likely take a day or two to make it through even an abbreviated clearance on just the technical issues, even taking snippets from previously cleared information. DTEM will start on that today.

Third, in the interim, the fuel oil ToxFAQ is probably closest to what folks are needing to know now for what they are encountering on the coast. Based on fate and transport of petroleum, what is likely approaching the coast first is the lighter more volatile diesel fuel from the rig; the heavier crude oil with tar balls and mats should be at least a day or two behind the diesel.

On contacts. For the general public, I think we need to let them come through CDC-Info for health information. It may be a good thing for us to reach out to the Poison Control Centers as well for healthcare professionals. For federal agencies and our state partners, the best contact will be through the CDC EOC at 770-488-7100 (24/7). The lead for this is supposed to be NCEH, but I guess we have been taking the brunt of it so far as it has been mostly NRT issues. We will work out with OPPER about who is going to get the calls triaged from the EOC.

If public health issues becomes a significant factor for the Incident Commanders dealing with the oil coming ashore (significant being that it distracts them from the response), they can ask for on-site support.

Money is tight and this may be long haul to get the well plugged and the release stopped. We may need to explore the process of getting a Pollution Funds Ordering Agreement (PFOA) out of the Pollution Funds Center so that we can get reimbursed out of the OPA Trust Fund. We have never done that before and I believe the process for first timers is a bit more involved than a Mission Assignment under the Stafford Act. My understanding is that we will have to involve FMO since we don't have an MOU with the Funds Center. We may be able to expedite that process by getting the EOC logistics people in on this, but that may also slow things down as they are focused on the mission assignment process. I have a contact for the Funds Center that I can give to whoever from here needs to be involved.

Let me know how this flies with Coast Guard Sector Mobile, the 8th District, and EPA IV. In the meantime, we'll start on pulling things together. We can probably have a draft done by the end of the day or first thing in the morning for folks to start chewing on.

Rich Nickle  
ATSDR Emergency Response

-----Original Message-----

From: Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)  
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 9:32 AM  
To: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)  
Subject: FW: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

Rich,

Per our discussion this morning.

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 9:17 AM

To: Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Sinks, Tom (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO)

Subject: Fw: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE

Jim, a follow up from our call this morning. I spoke to Dean Ullock this morning. EPA and USCG sector command would like this ASAP as complaints comming in more frequently. Bob

----- Original Message -----

From: Dean Ullock

Sent: 04/25/2010 05:30 PM CDT

To: <safay.robert@epa.gov>

Cc: hitchcock.shane@epa.gov; russell.chris@epa.gov; jardine.richard@epa.gov; taylor.matt@epa.gov; Benjamin Franco; eric\_dear@deg.state.ms.us; psw@adem.state.al.us; phil.wiecezynski@dep.state.fl.us

Subject: MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252 ODOR COMPLAINTS ATSDR ASSISTANCE Bob,

As mentioned and briefly discussed during the Sector Mobile Stakeholders call this Sunday afternoon, last night we started to receive land based "diesel like"odor complaints in Alabama and Mississippi through the NRC. I could smell it strongly here in Fairhope some 70-80 miles away. I'm certain it was because of the very low atmospheric pressure and strong southerly winds. Before this is all behind us we're liable to get many more.

For those complaints that come from Region IV, would you please assist our fellow stakeholders should if these complaints become persistent, etc?..

Is there a number or fact sheet I can give out to our stakeholders so they can become knowledgeable and put out a unified message to the public.

Thanks Bob.

Dean

Dean A. Ullock

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

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